

Page 8, line 6.

The invention as a whole is shown in the drawings by reference character 10. Mechanism 10, Fig. 1, is intended for use with a vehicle 12, depicted partially therein. Normally, vehicle 12 includes a rear portion 14 having a door which rotates upwardly or outwardly. Such doors are conventional and are normally referred to as cargo doors or hatchbacks. Vehicle 12 includes a trailer hitch 16, Fig. 2, which is normally intended to tow a trailer. Mechanism 10 takes the form of a platform 18 and a fastening device 20, which will be discussed in [great] greater detail as the specification continues. Platform 18 may be of any shape or character. As shown in Fig. 1, platform 18 includes a mesh bottom 22 with a shallow wall portion 24 surrounding mesh bottom 22. Also, a quartet of removable posts 26 are illustrated to hold bulky cargo to platform 18.

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Platform 18, Fig. 2, includes a connector 52 which possesses plates 54 and 56 connected to bar 58. Bar 58 and plates 54 and 56 are fastened to the frame 57 of platform 18 by welding, or other suitable means. [Connectors] Connector 52 may take other forms commensurate with the particular configuration of upright member 42. Gusset 60 strengthens platform 18. Plurality of receivers 62 are also depicted in Fig. 2 with respect to platform 18 to hold plurality of posts 26 such as post 64, partially depicted. It should be noted that plates 54 and 56 of connector 52 fit within recess 48 of base member 40. Plurality of openings 66 in plates 54 and 56 align with one another and the plurality of openings 50 plates 44 and 46 to permit fixation and rotation of platform 18

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relative to base member 40, which will be further described hereinafter.

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Locking means 78 is also illustrated in Figs. 2, 3, and 4. Locking means externalizes in a pin 80 and cotter pin 82. Again, openings in plates 44 and 46 align with openings in plates 54 and 56 to hold platform 18 in the position shown in Fig. 3. Pin 80 also serves as stop means 75 to prevent further rotation of platform 18 toward ground surface 86. It should be noted that in the position depicted in Fig. 3, the platform 18 is located further from ground surface 86 than the axis 88 of trailer hitch 16. That is to say, the axis 90 of bar 58 is parallel and super positioned relative to axis 88 of hitch 16. Turning to Fig. 4, it may be seen that platform 18 has been rotated into a vertical position about bolt 68 forming such pivot. Again, pin 80 and cotter pin 82 are used to fix or lock platform 18 into this position by the use of particular openings in plates 54 and 56 of connector 52 and openings within plates 44 and 46, all of which are alignable. Platform 18 may also be locked in a position roughly at 45 degrees relative to ground surface 86 shown in phantom as platform portion 92 in Fig. 4. In such case, opening 94 as well as another opening in plate 54 and a pair of openings in plates 44 and 46, all alignable, would permit such locking position. In such angular position, one would gain access to the rear of vehicle 12 without removing mechanism 10 from the vehicle. Likewise, the position depicted in Fig. 4, a vertical position would suffice for storing platform 18 when cargo is not being carried, again permitting mechanism 10 to be retained at

vehicle 12. Stop means 96, in the form of a shelf 98, acts in concert with pin 80 to prevent further rotation of platform 18.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

CLEAN VERSION OF SPECIFICATION

Page 1, line 16.

United States Patents 5,806,736, 5,806,737, and 5,853,278 depict cargo carrying items which are connected to the trailer hitch of a vehicle and are swingable away from the vehicle along a vertical axis. In essence, such movement permits access to the rear of the vehicle and operation of a door of the vehicle in that area.

Page 5, line 22.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a vehicle hitch supported cargo carrier mechanism which includes a platform that is rotatable relative to the vehicle hitch and includes a position of fixation that is angularly measured relative to a horizontal surface, permitting the user to gain access to the cargo door at the rear of a vehicle.

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a/ platform 18 includes a mesh bottom 22 with a shallow wall portion 24 surrounding mesh bottom 22. Also, a quartet of removable posts 26 are illustrated to hold bulky cargo to platform 18.

[ Page 9, line 12. ✓

a/ Platform 18, Fig. 2, includes a connector 52 which possesses plates 54 and 56 connected to bar 58. Bar 58 and plates 54 and 56 are fastened to the frame 57 of platform 18 by welding, or other suitable means. Connector 52 may take other forms commensurate with the particular configuration of upright member 42. Gusset 60 strengthens platform 18. Plurality of receivers 62 are also depicted in Fig. 2 with respect to platform 18 to hold plurality of posts 26 such as post 64, partially depicted. It should be noted that plates 54 and 56 of connector 52 fit within recess 48 of base member 40. Plurality of openings 66 in plates 54 and 56 align with one another and the plurality of openings 50 plates 44 and 46 to permit fixation and rotation of platform 18 relative to base member 40, which will be further described hereinafter.

[ Page 10, line 14. ✓

a/ Locking means 78 is also illustrated in Figs. 2, 3, and 4. Locking means externalizes in a pin 80 and cotter pin 82. Again, openings in plates 44 and 46 align with openings in plates 54 and 56 to hold platform 18 in the position shown in Fig. 3. Pin 80 also serves as stop means 75 to prevent further rotation of platform 18 toward ground surface 86. It should be noted that in the position depicted in Fig. 3, the platform 18 is located further from ground surface 86 than the axis 88 of trailer hitch 16. That is to say,

6 16

✓

the axis 90 of bar 58 is parallel and super positioned relative to axis 88 of hitch 16. Turning to Fig. 4, it may be seen that platform 18 has been rotated into a vertical position about bolt 68 forming such pivot. Again, pin 80 and cotter pin 82 are used to fix or lock platform 18 into this position by the use of particular openings in plates 54 and 56 of connector 52 and openings within plates 44 and 46, all of which are alignable. Platform 18 may also be locked in a position roughly at 45 degrees relative to ground surface 86 shown in phantom as platform portion 92 in Fig. 4. In such case, opening 94 as well as another opening in plate 54 and a pair of openings in plates 44 and 46, all alignable, would permit such locking position. In such angular position, one would gain access to the rear of vehicle 12 without removing mechanism 10 from the vehicle. Likewise, the position depicted in Fig. 4, a vertical position would suffice for storing platform 18 when cargo is not being carried, again permitting mechanism 10 to be retained at vehicle 12. Stop means 96, in the form of a shelf 98, acts in concert with pin 80 to prevent further rotation of platform 18.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-12 and add new claims 13-20.

13. A vehicle hitch supported cargo carrier mechanism connectable to the hitch of the vehicle located above the ground surface,

comprising:

- a. an adaptor connecting to the hitch of the vehicle;
- b. a base member connected to said adaptor said base member comprising an upright element, said upright element extending outwardly from said adaptor, said base member upright element further comprising a first plate and a second plate, said first and second plates forming a recess, said base member further including a first stop preventing rotation of said platform in one direction of rotation, and a second stop for preventing rotation of said platform in another direction of rotation;
- c. a platform;
- d. a connector linked to said platform, said connector rotatably fastened to said upright element, said connector fitting within said recess, said connector further comprising a third plate and a spaced fourth plate, said third plate lying immediately adjacent said first plate and said fourth plate lying immediately adjacent said second plate in said recess; and
- e. locking means for fixing the rotating movement of said connector and linked platform relative to said upright element at a plurality of positions, said platform lying further above the ground surface than the hitch when said platform is fixed in any of said plurality of positions.

<sup>2</sup>  
~~14~~. The mechanism of claim <sup>1</sup>~~13~~ in which said locking means for fixing the rotation movement of said connector and linked platform comprises an opening in each of said first, second, third, and fourth plates, each of said openings being alignable with all of said other openings.

<sup>3</sup>  
~~15~~. The mechanism of claim <sup>2</sup>~~14~~ in which said locking mechanism further comprises an elongated member passing through each of said aligned openings.

<sup>4</sup>  
~~16~~. A vehicle hitch supported cargo carrier mechanism connectable to the hitch of the vehicle located above the ground surface,

comprising:

- a. an adaptor connecting to the hitch of the vehicle;
- b. a base member connected to said adaptor said base member comprising an upright element, said upright element extending outwardly from said adaptor, said base member upright element comprising a first plate and a second plate, said first and second plates forming a recess;
- c. a platform, said platform further comprising at least one post extending outwardly therefrom said at least one post being removably held to said platform;
- d. a connector linked to said platform, said connector rotatably fastened to said upright element, said connector fitting within said recess; and
- e. locking means for fixing the rotating movement of said connector and linked platform relative to said upright element at a plurality of positions, said platform lying further above the ground



surface than the hitch when said platform is fixed in any of said plurality of positions.

<sup>5</sup>  
~~17~~. The mechanism of claim ~~16~~<sup>4</sup> in which said base member further includes a first stop preventing rotation of said platform in one direction of rotation, and a second stop for preventing rotation of said platform in another direction of rotation.

<sup>6</sup>  
~~18~~. The mechanism of claim ~~17~~<sup>5</sup> connector comprises a third plate and a spaced fourth plate, said third plate lying immediately adjacent said first plate in said recess.

<sup>7</sup>  
~~19~~. The mechanism of claim ~~18~~<sup>6</sup> in which said locking means for fixing the rotation movement of said connector and linked platform comprises an opening in each of said first, second, third, and fourth plates, each of said openings being alignable with all of said other openings.

<sup>8</sup>  
~~20~~. The mechanism of claim ~~19~~<sup>7</sup> in which said locking mechanism further comprises an elongated member passing through each of said aligned openings.